

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Papen DATE TYPED 2/5/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Equestrian Program SB 281

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$300.0			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.
 Relates to HB17, Duplicates HEC Committee Substitute for HB17
 Relates to SB345

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University (NMSU) (HB17)
 New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE) (HB17)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 281 – Making an Appropriation for the Equestrian Program at New Mexico State University – appropriates \$300,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 for the equestrian program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

NMSU notes that this bill will enable NMSU to retain its Division 1-A membership classification in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) for all intercollegiate sports sponsored by the university. Further, that this action is necessary as new membership criterion established by the NCAA require that for an institution to be designated a Division 1-A program – the highest level of competition in the NCAA – it must sponsor a minimum of sixteen sports. NMSU

has elected to add women's equestrian as a sixteenth sport so as to meet the newly established sports sponsorship criterion for the NCAA's Division 1-A membership classification.

CHE indicates that this request was not included in the list of priority projects submitted by the NMSU Board of Regents to CHE for review. Accordingly, this request was not included in the commission's funding recommendation for FY06.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU indicates that women's equestrian – to include scholarships, coaching and an athletic trainer position – begins competition in spring 2005.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU would retain oversight of the program.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for NMSU in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB17 and duplicates HEC Committee Substitute for HB17 in that HEC Committee Substitute for HB17 also seeks to appropriate \$300,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 for the equestrian program.

Relates to SB345 in that SB345 seeks to appropriate \$1,647,500 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University for expenditure in fiscal years 2005 and 2006 to fund athletics at both school and conference levels and to meet NCAA certification criteria.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

NMSU suggests that scholarships, coaching staff positions and other operating expenses within the current sports programs sponsored by NMSU may need to be cut in order to meet the new NCAA Division 1-A membership requirements. Further, that these cuts would impact negatively upon student-athlete welfare issues and upon the competitiveness of the athletics program at NMSU.

BFW/yr